

Serial No.: 10/632,345

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 17-21 and 40-43 are pending in the application upon entry of this amendment. Claims 2-8 have been amended herein. Claims 14-17 and 22-39 have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 40-43 have been newly added. Support for claims 40-43 is found in the specification at paragraphs [0031-32]. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the noted allowability of claims 2-8 and 13. These claims would be in condition for allowance upon being amended to independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 has been amended to independent form and therefore should now be in condition for allowance. Applicants note, however, that claim 2 as amended no longer refers to the electric motor as being a "simulated slot" electric motor. This is because applicants believe the Examiner has not given any patentable weight to such feature in claim 2, and therefore the amendment should not adversely affect the allowability of claim 2.

Claims 3-8 have been amended so as to be consistent with the amendment of claim 2.

Accordingly, claims 2-8 are believed to be in condition for allowance and claim 13 remains allowable.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 12, 17 AND 19-21 UNDER 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1, 12, 17 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) based on *Denk*. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 17 each refer to a stator for an electric motor. Specifically, the stator includes a plurality of field windings at least partially disposed in a simulated slot(s).

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The Examiner submits that *Denk* discloses a plurality of field windings (49-51) at least partially disposed in a plurality of simulated slots (citing Fig. 2). By "simulated slots", the Examiner appears to be referring to the slot areas between the support fins 48 in Fig. 2.

Applicants agree with the Examiner to the extent that *Denk* discloses "slots" between the support fins 48 with windings 49-51 therein. However, applicants respectfully submit that such slots between the support fins 48 do not constitute "simulated slots" as recited in claims 1 and 17.

More specifically, the present application describes in detail how the electric motor of the present invention includes a stator formed with simulated slots. As described, for example, in paragraph [0048], simulated slots are formed initially in the making of the field windings and stator. In the example of Fig. 7B, retractable blades 704 form a simulated slot 720 so as to mirror a slot in a conventional motor. The field windings are wrapped around the retractable blades 704 filling the simulated slot 720. Upon completing the field windings, the blades 704 are retracted and the field windings 732 in the simulated slots remain.

The thus formed windings within the simulated slots may be molded to the internal cylinder wall of the magnetic flux tube, and preferably are over-molded. (See claims 40-43). Such molding may then form fins in the spacing between the simulated slots. Thus, it will be appreciated that the electric motor/stator of the present invention is based on simulated slots formed, for example, by the retractable blades in Fig. 7B.

In *Denk*, the reference merely teaches a conventional bobbin design. More specifically, the field windings are merely wrapped around the actual slots in the bobbin formed by the support fins 48. The bobbin is then simply inserted into the magnetic tube. There are no simulated slots within which the field windings are formed as in the present invention.

Accordingly, *Denk* does not teach or suggest a stator with field windings in simulated slots as recited in claims 1 and 17. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 17, and the claims dependent therefrom is respectfully requested.

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III. NEW CLAIMS 40-43

Claims 40-43 recite that the plurality of field windings are molded to the internal cylinder wall of the magnetic flux tube. *Denk* does not teach or suggest such feature. Allowance of claims 40-43 is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP



Mark D. Saralino
Reg. No. 34,243

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The Keith Building
1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113
B:\GEN\YES\102A\dyesp102a.amd.wpd